

Folk on the Lawn 2012

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A date has been set for *Folk on the Lawn 2012* – Friday 13th to Sunday 15th July. The event will take place, once more, at Abbey Mill Wye Valley Centre, Tintern, south Wales.

As always, it's a ***'trust-us-to-try-to-raise-as-much-as-we-can-through-sponsorship-raffles-donations-wristband-sales-and-programmes-and-share-the-proceeds-equally (but don't expect too much)-arrangement'*** (and sell some CDs etc) I'm afraid! Unlike many events, we are not subsidised. Everyone involved in the organization – from those who put together the PAs and engineer the sound, those who spend many a long evening creating and dispersing publicity to those who erect the tents... all give their services on a voluntary basis.

We have some aims:

- To bring a range of innovative and musically – albeit within a genre that is, approximately, folk/acoustic - and geographically/artistically diverse musicians and writers to south east Wales in order to both serve and inspire a local (and wider) audience with a passion for musical discovery. In addition, to provide a platform for local writers and musicians
- To maintain a small event with few overheads and on a donations only basis
- To reply on goodwill and trust from all, to all in every aspect of the event

In the past, we have enjoyed musicians from far and wide across Europe and America, in addition to the most creative and passionate (and often, needless to say, entertaining!) local writers and players. Why? Perhaps because of:

- The location. It is an idyllic spot. Near the festival site, the Romantic, William Wordsworth, was inspired to write his famous 'Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey'. The setting continues to inspire.
- The occasion. It is antithesis of the modern, corporate festival; instead, there is an intimate, collegiate atmosphere, where everyone seems to get to know everyone else and feels the better for it; a place where the pundits and the plaudits both mix and, sometimes, exchange roles.
- The audience. Passionate, but intelligent appreciation. Liking of those whose who practise their 'sullen art' as much as the more brash 'festival bands'.

We have two outside stages, the River Stage/Llwyfan yr Afon (a tent stage) and the Mill Stage/Llwyfan y Melin (a large wooden gazebo, built entirely from wood – no nails even!) and an indoors stage, the Bar Stage/Llwyfan y Bar. All sets are 40 minutes.

There is no on-site camping. There exists a basic Monmouthshire Council-run campsite a 10 minute walk away at the Old Station (a special setting in itself). There are many guest houses and hotels in the village, but book early as there were, literally, only a couple of rooms left in 2011. There are a number of other camp/caravan sites within a short drive of Tintern – take a look at the website for links.

We may well be able to sort out camping for those performing who are in real of something other than the facilities mentioned above. In the past, some local pubs (and even residents) have suggested/allowed camping in their fields and car parks.